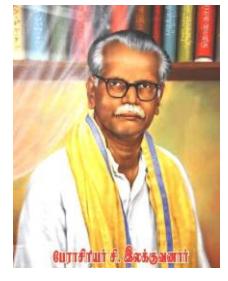




# THIRUKKURAL EXPRESS

KuralNeri in English: Founder: Dr.S.Ilakkuvanar



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## Kalaignar Mu.Karunanithi centenary commemorative issue



### Thalaivar and Thamizayyaa

In the first half of the twentieth century, most of the Tamil scholars started their career only in high schools. Our KuralNeri founder, the illustrious scholar, Ilakkuvanar started his career as a Tamil teacher at Thanjavur District Board high schools, agreeing to serve in any place in the district. He started his career at Kudavasal and then got transferred to Thiruvarur. Our unique leader Kalaignar was a student at that school and was very happy to get a Periyarist as his 'Thamizh ayyaa' (teacher).

Kalaignar has recorded this in his autobiography titled 'Nenjukku Needhi' (Justice for the conscience) as "*Ilakkuvanar taught me the self-respect awareness needed for the Tamil race*". Even though Ilakkuvanar was only in his mid-twenties at that time, he was very popular as an ardent follower of Periyar and a tireless propagandist of Periyar's thoughts. After school-hours Ilakkuvanar will be seen only in black shirt or with a black shawl around his neck. During week-ends, he will go on a tour for the propagation of Tholkappiyam, Thirukkural, Sangam classics and Silappadikaram. He will get it published in Periyar's journals Kudiyarasu, Puratsi and later in Viduthalai. Thus, he was prominent as a Periyarist activist

among Tamil scholars and a scholar among activists. Ilakkuvanar's vigor and vivacity in propagating the self-respect movement among the Tamil masses with much enthusiasm and energy made a deep impact in the mind of his student Karunanidhi. The mass leader who had later attracted millions of Tamils, acknowledged this in his autobiography as "Ilakkuvanar taught me the self-respect awareness needed for the Tamil race".

Kalaignar in his school days founded a 'Tamilnadu Manavar mandram' and asked his teacher Ilakkuvanar to inaugurate. It seems Ilakkuvanar had been transferred to Nannilam by this time and during his journey to Thiruvarur, Perasiriyar Anbazhagan who was then a student of Annamalai University happened to accompany him.

When Kalaignar was imprisoned under the draconian D.I.R. act, Ilakkuvanar as a journalist and Editor of Kuralneri condemned the Bhakthavathsalam government. While Kalaignar was released from Palayamkottai jail, there was a rousing reception organized by Madurai Muthu; since it was a summer vacation time, Ilakkuvanar joined the meeting to welcome Kalaignar.

The very next day, the merciless Bhakthavathsalam government imprisoned Ilakkuvanar under the very same draconian D.I.R. act and put him in Vellore jail. Now Kalaignar as an Editor of Murasoli vehemently condemned this in his editorial.

Ilakkuvanar was dismissed from his professor post by the college management and the dismissal notice was sent to the Vellore jail. Even though this is a stab in the back, Ilakkuvanar described this 'as an award for his Tamil service'.

In June 1966 Ilakkuvanar started a Tamil daily 'Kural Neri' which was released by Kalaignar. During this time, I had completed my degree and joined my father's venture. The daily had considerable sales, however, the agents failed to send the money. Five thousand five hundred copies is a remarkable achievement, but we failed to appoint a circulation manager to oversee the revenue from the sales.

Kalaignar was a source of inspiration; whenever he visited Madurai and nearby places, he will never fail to mention his Teacher Ilakkuvanar's name as 'Thamizh Chingam Ilakkuvanar'.



After D.M.K. adorned the throne by a massive mandate, Ilakkuvanar was immensely happy when Anna named our state as 'Tamilnadu' and also when Thirukkural couplets accompanied by Valluvar's portrait were displayed in State owned buses.

Ilakkuvanar was sure that after the demise of Anna, Kalaignar is the savior of Tamils from the clutches of the Hindu imperialism.

Ilakkuvanar described Tholkappiyam and Thirukkural as the two eyes of Tamils. Kalaignar did yeomen service to propagate these two classics. His monumental Valluvar Kottam stands as a befitting tribute to his teacher who passed away in 1973. His brilliant treatise on Tholkappiyam titled ‘Tholkappiya Poonga’ is a worthy homage to his teacher Ilakkuvanar who translated Tholkappiyam in English to introduce it throughout the world.

Ilakkuvanar never got any awards or accolades from the state government during his lifetime. The government had on many occasions threatened him of dire consequences for his zest and zeal to spread the Tamil spirit right from his school service; he was dismissed while he was about to retire and it made him unable to get at least the minimum pension for his 36 years service.

While Anna offered him the Chief Professor post at Chennai Presidency College, the bureaucracy put many hurdles to fulfill Anna’s order and sent Ilakkuvanar with barely a year’s service.

Ilakkuvanar was never after any favor or concession from any government, but the achievements of Kalaignar for promoting Tamil as an efficient vehicle of administration and attainment of the classical status to Tamil will ever stand as the achievement of Ilakkuvanar’s aspirations. We still have to go further in this journey. We are sure our honorable Thalapthi’s leadership will reach the zenith of this mission.



Tamil poets throughout the world are periodically paying tributes to the Supreme leader KALAIIGNAR.



“One who worked hard without taking rest is resting in peace here,” read the letters inscribed on the wooden coffin of late DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi. The words—*Oivu edukkamal uzhaithavan, itho oivu eduthu kondirukkerean*—was penned by Karunanidhi himself at least three decades ago.

**Dr.Vathilai Pradaban**,President,Maharashtra Tamil writers foundation narrates some important

Anecdotes from the leader's life history.



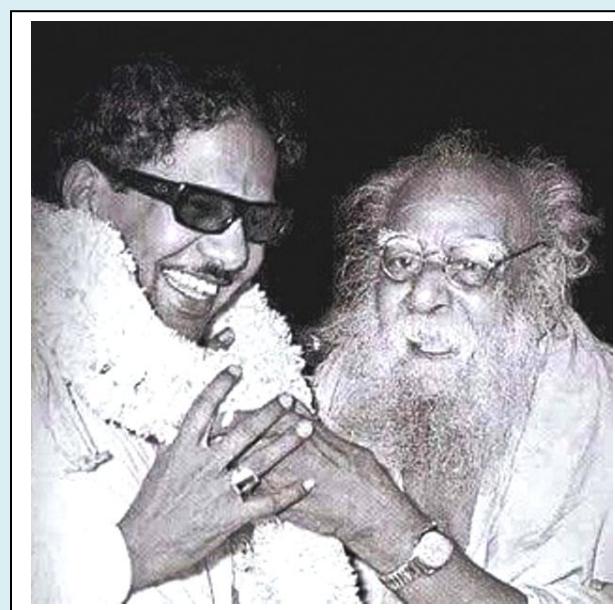
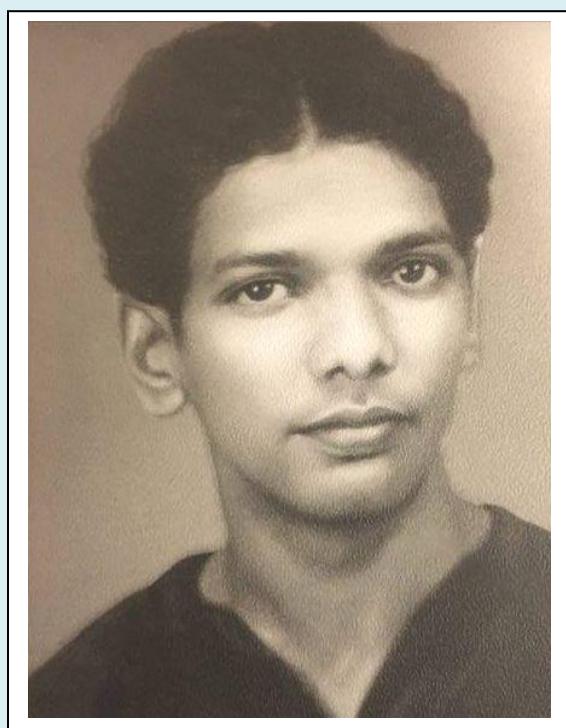
" I was not the pet child of an affluent home. I was born of an ordinary peasant stock, in a little village" narrates Kalaignar in his autobiography titled "Nenjukku needhi"”.

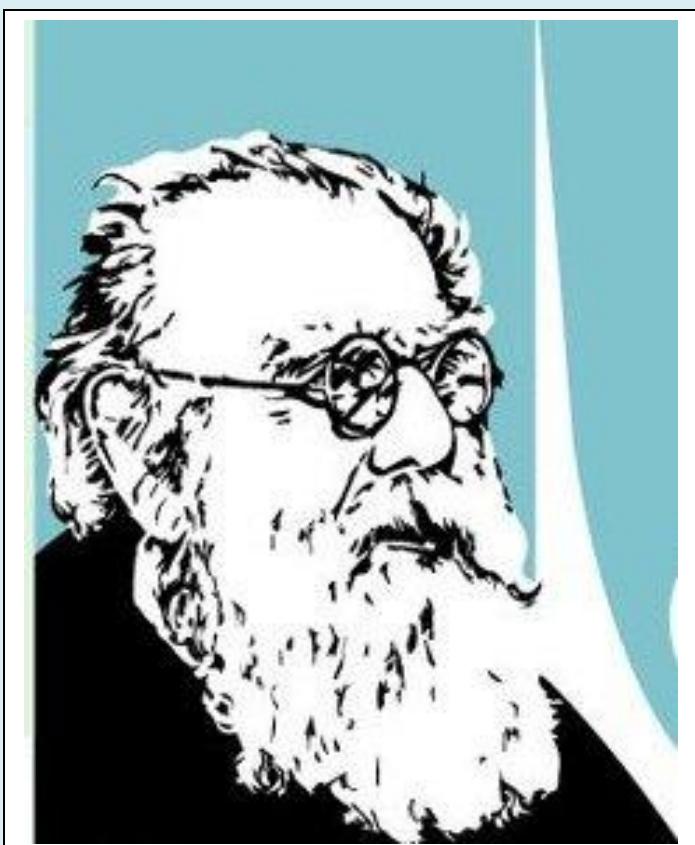
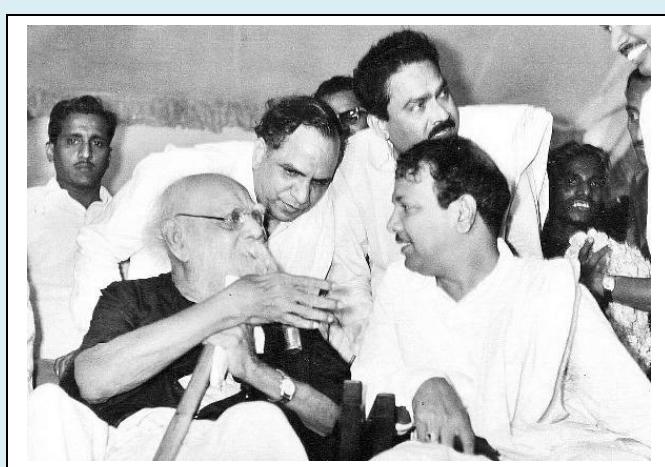
Kalaignar was born on June 3, 1924, in a village Thirukkuvalai near Thiruvarur. His father Muthuvel was a scholar and mother Anjugam ammal, a home maker.

His father's poetic talent, quick wit and presence of mind were inherited by the attentive and affectionate boy, which made him rise to a great leader and magnetic personality.

In his autobiography, Nenjukku Needhi, M. Karunanidhi wrote:" Father was struggling for his life. Our family was unable to give him top class treatment. Only local treatment was done. There was no other way left. For nearly 15 days, death hovered over father. Mother and I were seated next to him.Father, who yearned to see my progress, shed tears. He could not speak much. 'Have you completed the next story?' he asked softly. 'A little more is left', I replied. He said, 'I'll be finishing mine now'."Even in the grip of death, his natural literary wit was intact."

Such a great father who gave us a multi-talented and magnificent leader!





In an interview on 16 February 1965, a correspondent of Pravda, the official organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, asked Karunanidhi about the goals of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Karunanidhi responded that the goals were social justice in society, rationalism in culture, socialism in economy, and democracy in politics. The route to achieve these goals, he said, was via the parliament. Hailing from a community that was stigmatized by an oppressive feudal system in his hometown of Thiruvarur, he was drawn to the radical anti-caste discourse of Periyar.

As a teenager, he was an avid reader of Kudi Arasu, the Self-Respect movement's mouthpiece, and later joined its editorial team. He was 14 when he took part in the anti-Hindi agitations under the leadership of Periyar, decrying the imposition of Hindi.

The reason behind his immense popularity and the impact that he had as a political leader was the depth of his politics, which was essentially rooted in Dravidian philosophy and was centred on the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged. He fought against casteism and for social reform.

Periyar E.V.R. was the force and source for all of his progressive approaches and Anna taught him the way to adopt Periyarism in welfare schemes.



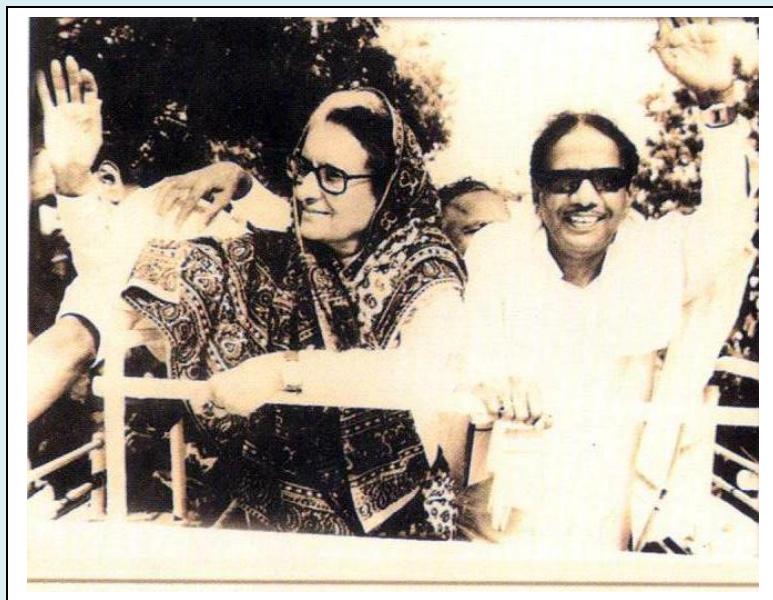
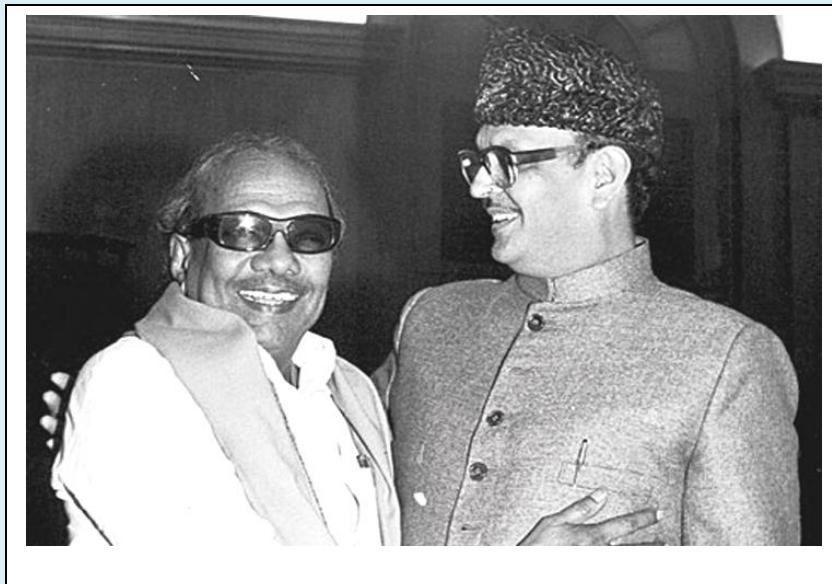
Periyar, Anna & Kalaignar, all had their reasons to enter politics. The common thread being discrimination they had faced, and the solution to it was to bring change through empowerment, change through progressiveness and emancipation of the poor and masses. Periyar became an ideological bedrock for the next generation of leaders to follow steadfastly, without excuses, to build an equitable and socially just society. Anna adapted and abandoned those ideas which were not suited to the times (demand of Dravida Nadu etc.) and blended politics of Tamil Nadu with the politics of Delhi. His politics contributed significantly to the voice of strengthening state's rights and federal structure of India. Anna's tenure was short-lived, but his impact, his vision outweighs the duration of him as Chief Minister.

The baton went to Kalaignar Karunanidhi, who over next five decades weaved a beautiful yet delicate thread between ideology, welfare policies and sound economics that propelled Tamil Nadu up the economic ladder of India. Propelling Tamil Nadu His love for Tamil is well documented. He used it as a tool to bring people under one umbrella. Since Tamil was one of the pillars of his politics, it was an inclusive one. It cut across all castes and religions who shared the love for the language. A tribute to his rationality based politics was the tweet by the acclaimed scientist MS Swaminathan who termed Kalaignar as 'Scientist of Scientists' and mentioned how he welcomed any initiatives for research and science.

Empathy was his other pillar which ensured that the unheard and the marginalized voices of the society found in him, a listener. In 2006, he established over 30 welfare boards, which were tasked with engaging with the marginalized sections (transgenders, persons with disabilities, workers etc.) of the society in framing policies for themselves. The welfare board established for transgenders was the first in the country, much before the famous ruling of NALSA vs Union Of India case. The reservations at 69%, barring the criticism, took one step closer to a socially just society where large sections of the people got representation and opportunities. The far-reaching consequence of which was that business flourished by tapping the broader consumer base of Tamil Nadu.

While the above mentioned were for the marginalized, initiatives on Education (primary & higher) and reducing out of pocket expenditure for health were also significant. The healthy and the educated population capitalized on the opportunities the industries provided. The marginalized, the disabled, the masses, the poor and the wealthy, all had a fair chance at the available prospects.

Courtesy: <https://thelogicalindian.com/opinion/karunanidhi/>



Shining as a Sun forever!

----Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar

How to sing the praise of Karunanidhi  
Our acclaimed leader and adored guide!  
An amazing wonder in the political history  
A morning star of modern literature!  
A turning point in Tamil cinema!  
A hallmark of provoking prose!  
A guiding light for inspirational journalism;  
A workshop of stimulating poetry;  
A manual of awesome oration;  
An encyclopedia for administrative skills;  
A guiding star to the direction of welfare state;  
A glowing sun which drove the darkness of poverty and ignorance;  
A pleasant moonlight even for enemies;  
A springing fountain of classical Tamil;  
A golden throne for street-driven third gender;  
A donated heart for the differently abled;  
An abode for the poverty-stricken handloom weavers;  
A cool resort even for wrong-doing political opponents;  
A cuckoo ever-singing the praise of Anna!  
A roaring lion intimidating the enemies of Tamil;  
A dedicated younger brother of Anna  
Cherishing the sublime values in politics!  
A leader who was always after cadres;  
A volunteer who cared for volunteers;  
Whenever and wherever there was a problem  
The affectionate comrade who rushes to help the people;  
A modern age Pandya king continuously surrounded by scholars;  
An advocate of state autonomy;  
A sincere devotee of India's integration;  
Always a leader and uncrowned monarch of Tamils;  
Never went after the millionaires!  
Always cared to associate with him  
the millions under poverty line!  
With an eye on pragmatic plans  
Attention on the ways to accomplish schemes  
Strained every nerve with a futuristic vision!  
The mighty time cannot devour his memories!  
He steers our hearts without any pause  
Leading to the goal of welfare economy!  
He will be shining as a sun forever!